



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Governor's Workforce Board - Rhode Island

\$570K in Grants Awarded to Teach Youth Job Readiness Skills

CRANSTON – The Governor's Workforce Board of Rhode Island (GWB-RI) awarded grant funding to support activities that enable youth to understand the link between job readiness skills and future employment opportunities by offering practical experience at a range of work sites. Eleven organizations will share \$570,608 made available through the *We-Can-2 Summer Jobs Program*, a pilot initiative that will provide work/project activities and job readiness skills to youth 14 or 15 years of age.

"The Governor's Workforce Board-RI (GWB-RI) develops innovative policy that coordinates and enriches Rhode Island's workforce, education, and economic development systems," Governor Donald L. Carcieri said. "This program reinforces these goals."

Joe MarcAurele, Board Chairman, noted, "The *We-Can-2 Summer Jobs Program* participants represent a strong and effective collaboration between public and private sectors, enabling youth to clearly see that skills they learn in school will help them reach their future career goals."

We-Can-2 Summer Jobs Program Grant recipients include: Volunteers In Providence Schools; Central Falls Family Self-Sufficiency Foundation; Women & Infants' Hospital of Rhode Island; Goodwill Industries of Rhode Island; Family Resources Community Action; Tri-Town Community Action Agency; Boys & Girls Club of Newport County; Central RI Area Health Education Center; Urban League of Rhode Island; Sophia Academy; and the South County Community Action Agency.

– 30 –

The Rhode Island Department of Labor and Training offers a wide array of employment and training services to both the general public and to individuals with unusual barriers to employment. DLT is ready to assist any job seeker, whether the goal is a first job, a better job, or a career change. Rhode Island's workforce is protected through the enforcement of labor laws, prevailing wage rates, and workplace health and safety standards. Temporary income support is available to unemployed, sick, or injured workers and a comprehensive rehabilitation program is available to those injured on the job.

DLT is dedicated to the growth and competitiveness of Rhode Island industry, administering a variety of training grants, tax credits, and apprenticeship programs to help employers. Economic indicators and labor market information are available for long-range planning. The Agency engages in active outreach, helping large and small employers retain their best workers or retrain their existing work force. At no cost to the employer, DLT will also screen job applicants, post job vacancies, and help businesses institute cost-sharing programs that can avert layoffs.

For more information on the innovative programs and services available to all Rhode Islanders at the Department of Labor and Training, please call (401) 462-8000 or visit the web site at www.dlt.ri.gov.

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Governor Donald L. Carcieri



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